

Sample ELA Items - Grade 8



National Center and State Collaborative

NCSC AA-AAS

English Language Arts- Reading Grade 8 Sample Items

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Session 1

We are going to read informational text about a man named Mark Twain. He lived a long time ago and wrote books. After we read, you will be asked a question about an argument the author makes.

The Life and Works of Mark Twain



Mark Twain was an American writer. He was born in 1835. He wrote many books, but his best known books are "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". Both books are set in Missouri. This is where Twain lived.

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Twain first began by writing articles and drawing sketches for his brother's local newspaper. He became well known after he wrote a short humorous story.

Twain lived his life on the go. He traveled throughout the country and overseas. He gained the attention of presidents and celebrities.



Twain was fascinated by science and technology. He actually created several inventions. His love of science was reflected in his book, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court". In

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this book, one of the characters is a time traveler. This type of story was one of the first of its kind.

Mark Twain has influenced many people. He is seen as a great American author.

Session 1 - Item 1

Remember, an author uses an argument, based on facts, to make the reader believe something.

What argument did the author make about Mark Twain?

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Mark Twain was a famous scientist.

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☐



Mark Twain lived in Missouri.

☐



Mark Twain was a talented author.

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We read about a man named Mark Twain. We are going to read part of the text again. Then you will be asked a question about an inference.

The Life and Works of Mark Twain



Mark Twain was an American writer. He was born in 1835. He wrote many books, but his best known books are "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". Both books are set in Missouri. This is where Twain lived.

Twain first began by writing articles and drawing sketches for his brother's local newspaper. He

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became well known after he wrote a short humorous story.

Twain lived his life on the go. He traveled throughout the country and overseas. He gained the attention of presidents and celebrities.

Session 1 - Item 2

Mark Twain was a famous writer. Which sentence tells that Mark Twain was famous?

☐



He was born in 1835.

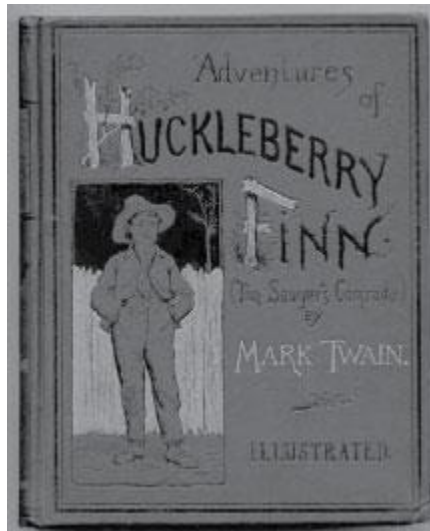
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He wrote for his brother's newspaper.

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He became well known after he wrote a story.

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Session 1 - Item 3

What is another sentence that tells that Mark Twain was famous?

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The setting of both books is in Missouri.

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He traveled throughout the country.

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He gained the attention of presidents and celebrities.